

April 29, 1953

Office of the Governor

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(1) AUSTIN, - TEXAS

The Governor today signed H.B. 111 (Smith), the General Appropriation Bill for the operation of state government during the next two years.

In signing the bill, the Governor made this statement:

"One of my recommendations to the 53rd Legislature was that a cost-of-living raise be given to state employees. This bill grants a general raise of \$180 a year. This is not as much as I had hoped for, but it was all that could be squeezed out of available revenues. If and when more money becomes available, I hope the Legislature will consider increasing this figure.

"It has been found that honest miscalculations in the appropriation for State Hospitals and Special Schools makes it essential that corrective legislation be passed. A bill is needed to free the Board's local funds so that current operations can be continued and, at the same time, the \$180 salary increase given to all employees as was the Legislature's clear intent.

"In another instance, insufficient funds were provided to staff all the new hospitals that will be ready for use during the next biennium. Provision has been made for the new tuberculosis hospitals, but not for some of the others. It is obviously imperative to make these funds available to the Board, in order that we may not be delayed in taking advantage of the new facilities that are being provided for the mentally ill.

"By oversight, authorization was not given for the Highway Department to grant the usual vacations to employees who work on an hourly basis. This provision should be restored by special statute."

(2)

The Governor has vetoed S.B. 144 (Martin), amending the Cemetery Act. This bill was submitted to the Attorney General for an opinion as to its constitutionality, and he ruled that it contravenes Section 56 of Article III (bracket bill).

(3)

The Governor has signed H.B. 517 (Moore), amending the Firemen's Pension Law. Immediate effect.

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